

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/603,049

Applicant(s) : Charles S. VANN et al.

Filed : June 24, 2003

TC/A.U. : 1743

Examiner : To be assigned

For : **BEAD DISPENSING SYSTEM**

Customer No. : 22896

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information (listed on the attached Form PTO 1449) of which they are aware, which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56.

This Information Disclosure Statement:

- (a) accompanies a new patent application submitted herewith.
- (b) is filed within three months after the filing date of the application or within three months after the date of entry of the national stage of a PCT application as set forth in 37 CFR §1.491.
- (c) as far as is known to the undersigned, is filed before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits.

- (d) as far as is known to the undersigned, is filed before the mailing date of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.
- (e) is filed after the first Office Action and more than three months after the application's filing date or PCT national stage date of entry filing but, as far as is known to the undersigned, prior to the mailing date of either a final action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first, and is accompanied by either the fee (\$180) set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) or a certification as specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e), as checked below. Should any fee be due, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 01-2213 in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the cost of this Information Disclosure Statement. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to this deposit account. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.
- (f) is filed after the mailing date of either a final rejection or a notice of allowance, but on or before the payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by the fee (\$180) set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1) **and** a certification as specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e), as checked below. **This document is to be considered as a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement.** The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 01-2213 in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the cost of this Information Disclosure Statement. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to this deposit account. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

[If either of boxes (e) or (f) is checked above, the following "certification" under 37 CFR §1.97(e) may need to be completed.] The undersigned certifies that:

- Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

- No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication mailed from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

A copy of the items on PTO Form 1449 that are not United States Publications:

- are supplied herewith.
 are not supplied because they were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in prior application Serial No. 09/250,697, filed February 16, 1999 and relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 USC §120.

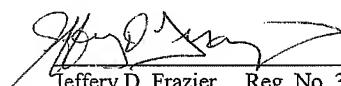
While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 14, 2006

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| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | | | Atty Docket No. | Application No. | | |
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| REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANTS (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | Applicant | | | |
| | | | | VANN et al. | | | |
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| | | | | June 24, 2003 | 1743 | | |
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| Examiner | | Date Considered |
| <p>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant.</p> | | |